

[2 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Rehabilitation of Persons affected by Fire at Ordnance Depots

1242. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of Rajasthan has demanded that the Central Government should bear the costs of rehabilitation of the civilians affected by recent fire at ordnance depots in Bharatpur and Birdhwal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and response thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that his Ministry have not informed immediately the State Government about the fire; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) As per the reports received from State Government of Rajasthan, 2 persons died in the fire incident that occurred in Bharatpur on 28.4.2000 and 7 persons were injured. The Rajasthan Government had asked for a compensation of Rs. 8.83 crores which included the amount meant for loss caused to the individual's private properties and for future investment on infrastructure development for various Government departments.

The Ministry of Defence sanctioned, as a special case, payment of an amount of Rs. 2 lakh each to the families of those 2 persons who died in the fire accident. An amount of Rs. 1 lakh was also sanctioned to compensate the 7 injured persons.

As regards the proposed expenditure of Rs. 8.83 crores, estimated by State Government for future investment on infrastructure for various Government departments and loss to individual's private properties, this was not agreed to by the Ministry of Defence, as there is no provision for providing this compensation. No report has yet been received from the State Government regarding any compensation to be paid to the civilian population as a result of the fire incident at Birdhwal, (Ganganagar).

There was full communication and coordination between the

agencies of the State Government and the concerned Army authorities. The fire started at about 1215 hours on 24th May, 2001, in 2 Ammunition Sub Depot (24 Field Ammunition Depot), Birdhwal (Ganganagar) and within an hour the District Magistrate of Hanumangarh, and shortly thereafter the District Magistrates of Suratgarh and Bikaner were contacted by the Corp Headquarters, seeking assistance for fire fighting operations.

Computerization of Ordnance Depots

1243. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the findings/observations of CAG Report No. 7A (Defence Services) of 2000 on material management by the ordnance depots under the Director General of Ordnance Services (DGOS):

(b) whether inventory management in the ordnance depots has been fully automated;

(c) if so, whether the existing provisions and issue system have also been computerized; and

(d) how many ordnance depots are yet to be computerized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI KRISHNAMRAJU): (a) to (d) The report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India was tabled in the Parliament on 22.12.2000. The aim of the study was to review the inventory management policies, practices and procedures of inventory held by the Central Ordnance Depots. Audit fund deficiencies in the implementation of the prescribed systems and highlighted delays in some depots in issue of the Supplementary Provision Review Directive (SPRD), non placement of demands and tendency to hold on to revealed surpluses instead of declaring them for disposal. Accordingly, a number of recommendations have been made in the report, for consideration and implementation by the Army Ordnance Corps, in particular, as also other connected organization like Department of Defence Production & Supplies, Directorate General of Quality Assurances, Directorate of Standardization as well as the